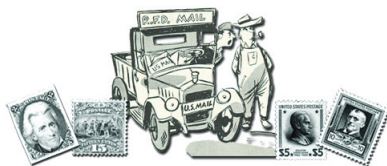


WHAT'S UP?



Following our three-day visit to the Southeastern Stamp Expo in Norcross, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta, we received an email from show chairman Scott Mark inquiring whether we might be covering the show in the pages of this magazine. A better question might have been one from your writer who immediately pondered, "How could we *not*?"

We're a little sheepish to admit that the SESE was the first stamp show we have ever attended in the Peach State (the show was once called the Peach State Stamp Show, by the way). On the afternoon of our arrival the day before the show opened, we were quite impressed to see the event's venue was an ultra modern Hilton Hotel with a ballroom simply perfect as a venue for a philatelic exhibition.

Showgoers who like their stamp events in the hotel where they're staying loved this one! Not only that, but there was ample room for a 25-dealer bourse and the full complement of frames for a normal World Series of Philately competitive



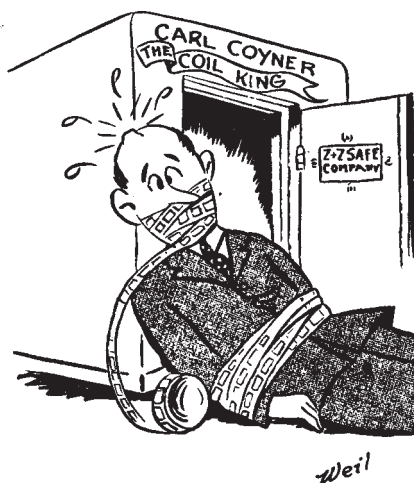
Southeastern Stamp Expo
Chairman Scott Mark



The grand award for David Pitts' exhibit, *Bermuda Postal History from Colonization to UPU*, is shown here being accepted for him by Dr. Art Groten from Tom Mazza, chief judge at the Southeastern Stamp Expo in Atlanta.

exhibition. As we were placing our exhibit into the frames on Thursday night we wondered if the lovely hall would be full of people the next day. We needn't have fretted. Fifteen minutes after the doors opened the next day, the aisles and bourse seating were close to capacity!

Word had filtered to us in the months, perhaps years, before the show that it was an event that was struggling. If that was ever the case, it's exactly the opposite now. It was quite apparent to us that with



very able people like Scott and exhibits chairman Bruce Roberts (and a very active committee comprised of members from stamp clubs throughout America's Southeast), the Southeastern Stamp Expo is one more example of the growing good health of our APS-accredited national stamp shows.

One of the many things that impressed us were the quality of their awards given to winning exhibits. Their medals are of the highest quality and design integrity; certainly among the most beautiful in the entire hobby! Their grand awards are exquisite pieces of crystal.

So yes, Scott, we are offering our readers some coverage of this fine show—it deserves it and, not only that, but it is here in these pages because it can serve as an example to medium-sized stamp shows across the country that the health of the hobby is in good hands when shows like this exist!



Once thought to be a place where stamp collecting was not as actively pursued as in other parts of the country, Atlanta now supports a very vigorous stamp show the aisles of which were crowded during 80% of the show's hours!